

The BRYAN NEWSLETTER

Vol. XX

MARCH 1953

No. 7

Bryan University Endeavors to Keep Faith That W. J. Bryan Lived and Fought For

When William Jennings Bryan laid his burden at the feet of the Saviour and went to be with the Lord, he left behind him the memory of one who had "kept the faith." He left, too, in the hearts of some the burning desire to es-

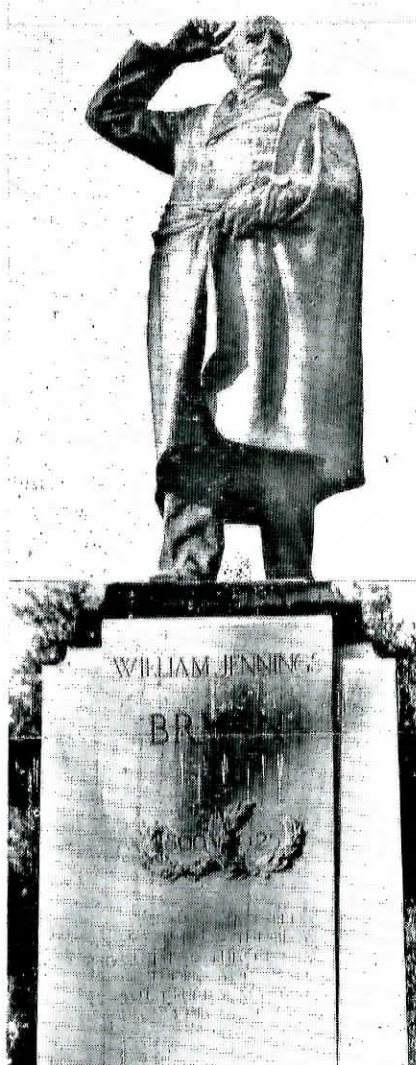
tablish a living memorial to his faith.

That desire took shape in the form of an institution for training young people to continue to keep the faith that he so valiantly lived and fought for. Having been established as a memorial to Mr. Bryan, Bryan University has a special reason for celebrating his birthday, which is on March 19.

Ever since Bryan admitted its first students, its purpose has been to keep its eyes always on the Lord and to remain faithful to the calling and high purpose of God. Like William Jennings Bryan, it has sought to fill its place in the service of the Lord.

Believing that they have been called out to be witnesses, Bryan students and staff are continually reaching out in service by pointing others to the way of salvation, and by sharing their talents with them. Nearly 100 students hold chapel services in the schools of Rhea County each week, and an-

(Continued on page 4)



Erected in the memory of William Jennings Bryan, this monument stands near Twenty-sixth Street and Constitution Avenue in Washington, D. C.



With their director, Gerald Woughter, the choir officers relax on the new risers. In the picture are, seated; Howard Park, Mr. Woughter, and Pearl Rathbun; and standing; Virginia Sequine, Charles Thornton, Stuart Meissner, and Joanne Simon.

New Equipment Includes Choir Risers; Directory

To meet building and classroom needs, several new pieces of equipment were recently designed and constructed by Calvin Jaynes, superintendent of maintenance. Included among these is a set of portable choir risers with three elevations for use by the 30-voice a cappella choir.

Mr. Jaynes also devised a sixteen-inch floor polisher from a worn-out rotary lawnmower, an automatic elevator for lifting ashes from the floor level of the boiler room to the ground level, a band saw for artistic woodwork, and a warehouse truck for heavy moving.

An administration building directory which lists room numbers for all offices and apartments located in the building has been placed inside the north entrance. The directory has been much needed since the building facilities were expanded to include a larger area. Nathan T'ung, student artist, did the lettering for the directory, and Ray Pickett, maintenance employee, constructed the frame.

Billy Graham Will Conduct Chattanooga Spring Campaign

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusade to be held in Chattanooga March 15 to April 10 has aroused much enthusiasm and prayerful interest on Bryan Hill. The four weeks of meetings will climax several months of active planning by the crusade's sponsors, the Chattanooga Pastors' Association.

The meetings will be held each evening in the new tabernacle and field house now under construction at Chattanooga's Warner Park.

Members of the "Bryan University family" have been invited to attend the Saturday, March 28, meeting in a body to sit in a reserved section.

From My Heart to You



In his memoirs, William Jennings Bryan reveals his life-long interest in American young people and his concern that they have the right sort of educational environment. Repeated indications of unbelief, especially among college students, puzzled Mr. Bryan and led him to investigate thoroughly the cause for students to lose faith in the Bible, first, in the story of creation, and later in other doctrines which underlie the Christian religion.

As indicated in the preface of his memoirs, Mr. Bryan regarded the story of his life as a heart-to-heart talk with the American people. That he may speak direct to your heart on the subject of education, we quote him as follows:

"As I look back over the years, I am increasingly grateful for the religious environment that surrounded me in my youth and the devotion of my parents and for the influence that the Church had upon me in my school days. The period through which one passes in the journey from youth to maturity is quite likely to be accompanied by some religious uncertainty. In the course of nature the child will substitute the spirit of independence for the spirit of dependence. Instead of doing things because he is told to, he must do them upon his own responsibility and from his own convictions. During this transition period the pendulum is apt to swing too far and he sometimes finds himself more self-reliant than he ought to be and less disposed to be influenced by advice of others.

"It is just at this time when the parental authority is weakening

that usually the student begins in the study of the physical sciences. If he is fortunate enough to have teachers who are themselves Christians with a spiritual vision of life, the effect is to strengthen his faith and he advances to a normal religious life. If he is unfortunate enough to fall under the influence of mind worshipers, he may be led step by step away from faith into unbelief. It is a matter of profound gratitude to me that during these days I was associated with Christian instructors so that the doubts aroused by my studies were resolved by putting them beside a powerful and loving God. Knowledge of the experiences of students has made me very sympathetic with students in college and has led me to go from college to college in the hope of helping young men to find solid ground upon which to stand.

"Religion is not hostile to learning. Christianity has been the greatest patron learning has ever had. But Christians know that 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.'

"Christianity welcomes truth from whatever source it comes, and is not afraid that any real truth from any source can interfere with the divine truth that comes by inspiration from God Himself. It is not scientific truth to which Christians object, for true science is classified knowledge, and nothing therefore can be scientific unless it is true.

"The world needs a Saviour more than it ever did before, and there is only one Name under heaven given among men whereby men must be saved. A heart can be changed in the twinkling of an eye and a change in the life follows a change in the heart. Christ is our drawing power: He said, 'I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me,' and His promise is being fulfilled daily all over the world."

The above statements by William Jennings Bryan summarize his conclusions in regard to the right kind of spiritual atmosphere for an educational institution. It is fortunate for us as a university named for Mr. Bryan that he had such ideals and that he expressed them.

JUDSON A. RUDD
President

Bensinger, McKinley Reign At Annual Valentine Party

"Let Me Call You Sweetheart" introduced the crowning of the Valentine king and queen at the annual Valentine party February 14. Dressed in royal robes and announced by pages, Ronald Bensinger, freshman of Ionia, Michigan, and Mary Jean McKinley, junior of Limestone, Pennsylvania, led the grand procession to the Valentine throne erected in the dining hall.

Student votes elected the king and queen from a list of candidates nominated by the Student Council. James Gould, sophomore of Tucson, Arizona, and Mary Barth of Poland, Ohio, who were runners-up, presented their highnesses and assisted in the crowning.

Ralph Maynard, junior of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was master of ceremonies for the evening and led in the games and stunts. After the coronation ceremony, June Zehrung, senior of Mishawaka, Indiana, brought an illustrated devotional. Songs and refreshments concluded the program.

Hitt Describes Today's Europe As Most Needy Mission Field

Having just recently returned from a month's tour in seven European countries, Russell T. Hitt brought up-to-date information on Europe at the Foreign Missions Fellowship meeting February 4 and at the chapel service February 7.

"We have the greatest mission fields in the world open in Europe today," Mr. Hitt stated as he emphasized the defeated attitude which seems to prevail among national Christian workers. He added that although the European Bible Institute in Paris has an enrollment of 24, the average student body in evangelical schools is 10.

Mr. Hitt, who is public relations consultant at Bryan, made the trip to Europe in the interest of the Greater Europe Mission, of which he is foreign secretary. Last summer he handled press relations at the World Conference on Evangelism sponsored by International Youth for Christ in Belfast, Ireland.

Bill Roller Testifies Of Blessings in Korea

He stood in front of the chapel audience and quietly declared that words could not express his deep feeling of gratitude to the Lord for His faithfulness to him in the past two and a half years. With some degree of nervousness he added that he would rather strap on his radio and carbine and creep out on a dangerous patrol than face those present. Yet, in the next few minutes, speaking with calm forcefulness, Bill Roller, recently returned from war-torn Korea, challenged the hearts of those listening with a simple testimony of what the Lord could do through a dedicated life in Uncle Sam's Army.

"We can ask the Lord what, when, where, and how, but we must never ask Him why," Bill said as his mind went back in retrospect to that day in 1950, while he was a student at Bryan, when his number had come up before the induction board, and within a few weeks he was training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. At that time it was difficult for him to understand the "why" of it all, but in spite of the questions which found lodging in his mind he recognized that God's ways are "past finding out"; they are for us to accept without reservation.

May 9, he arrived in Japan and in five short days he was on the front lines just above the 38th parallel. Only after his company was relieved for about two months did Bill really have opportunity to get to know the fellows of his outfit. With a nucleus of just a few Christians, he started a small Bible class, which grew rapidly in the succeeding weeks. Several were saved, and the Lord's presence was felt.

It came time for rotation, and Bill began preparation along with the others for the trip back home to his friends and loved ones, but the Lord began to speak in His own mysterious way, and before long Bill knew that the Lord wanted him to stop. After a fierce inward struggle, Bill laid his desire before the personnel office and was soon signed up for five more months on the bleak, battle-scarred hills of Korea. He continued the classes in an old quonset hut, and



After his experiences in the Korean conflict, Bill Roller enjoys relaxing on a Bryan campus bench.

before long the Lord awarded his faithfulness with five more souls.

Shortly after this, they were sent to the front lines, where the Lord answered prayer in sparing Bill's company, and two more fellows were saved—one on an outpost. Then operations were shifted to infamous "Triangle Hill." It became increasingly hard to keep the meetings going, and fewer and fewer came out. A "nothing-is-going-to-happen" attitude seemed to prevail.

One day the enemy chose Bill's outfit for its first attack on the hill. No meetings could be held now in the midst of the enemy's mortar and artillery fire, and no one dared move.

It was in this rugged fighting that Bill was wounded in the arm and leg. He was able to limp off the hill, but only 30 or 40 per cent of his company came off with him. Back there on "Triangle" lay boys who didn't know his Lord, and this thought weighed heavily on Bill's heart as he was sent back to Japan to the convalescent hospital.

In the next few weeks, he prayed much and read much in God's Word. One day, finding an empty room, he dropped to his knees and told the Lord that he would go back to those bunkers—back to his buddies that needed the Lord so desperately.

After his wounds had healed, he went to Camp Drake, but the authorities informed him that he was not allowed to go back. Then

he realized that the Lord had just wanted him to be willing to go.

Although no one has taken over Bill's classes in Korea, Bill did receive encouraging news from his platoon sergeant, who said that soon after they got off Triangle Hill he saw several fellows sitting around a fire reading a Bible.

Bill doesn't know what the Lord wants to do with his life here in the States. He has given serious thought to the military as his mission field, but above all he wants the Lord's will to be done.

Seidenspinner to Speak At Day of Prayer March 17

Dr. Charles Seidenspinner, president of the Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham, Alabama, will be special speaker at the Day of Prayer, Tuesday, March 17. Set aside each year for the purpose of prayer and intercession, the day follows the annual Bryan Birthday Banquet to be observed the evening of March 16. Begun several years ago in commemoration of William Jennings Bryan's birthday March 19 and appropriately followed by the day of prayer, the banquet traditionally announces the arrival of spring on Bryan Hill.

The prayer schedule for this year is as follows:

- 7:30 a.m.—Family and room devotions
- 8:00 a.m.—Dormitory prayer meetings
- 9:00 a.m.—Office and departmental prayer periods
- 10:00 a.m.—Message by Dr. Seidenspinner and prayer period
- 2:30 p.m.—Class and staff prayer meetings
- 7:15 p.m.—University prayer meeting

The schedule has been revised this year to allow more time for personal devotions and for students to prepare for their Wednesday's classes.

Friends and those interested in Bryan are especially invited to attend the chapel hour and the university prayer meeting which will be held in the Memorial Chapel. Those who cannot be present may wish to set aside some time during March 17 to share the prayer burden for Bryan University.

Undefeated Juniors Lead Intramural Basketball Rating

With an almost impenetrable front, the juniors completed the first basketball round with both the men's and women's teams on top with three gains and no losses. The total picture February 7, though, still left room for plenty of upsets before the final games are played this month. Standings for both men and women were—

	Won	Lost
Juniors	3	0
Sophomores	2	1
Freshmen	0	3
Seniors	1	2

In the fellows' league, junior John Rathbun is leading scorer with an average of 9.66 points for each of three games, and senior David Wisthoff follows closely behind with an average of 9.

Helping her team to stack up consistently high scores, Reita Hall, a member of the girls' junior team has a point average of 25.99. Close on her heels is sophomore Sandy Cue with 24, and Nancy Endicott, also a junior, has an average of 11 points.

BRYAN KEEPS FAITH

(Continued from page 1)

other 50 meet in small children's classes scattered throughout Dayton. The jails and hospitals are visited regularly, and street meeting and personal work have resulted in the salvation of many.

Bryan alumni, too, are in the service for their King as they uphold the faith for which Bryan stands. Many of them are pastors, missionaries, Christian teachers, and laymen and women.

Mr. Bryan once said, "Some of you may dispute whether I have fought a good fight; some of you may dispute whether I have finished my course; but no man can deny that I have kept the faith." Such is the testimony also of Bryan University as a simple beginning, untold setbacks, and difficult times have not erased its purpose in placing Christ above all.

Betty Bennett Gives Concert



Miss Betty Bennett was accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Joy Hunt Bennett, in a violin concert February 12. Betty is a 16-year-old Christian violinist who has demonstrated unusual musical ability.

Denver Seminary Head to Speak in Chapel; Levengood Sketches Work of Mountain Mission

Dr. Carey S. Thomas, president of the Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado, will speak at the chapel service March 5. Before assuming the headship of the seminary a few years ago, Dr. Thomas resided in Altoona, Pennsylvania, where he was an active leader in Conservative Baptist circles. A number of Bryan graduates are continuing their studies at the Denver school.

The Rev. A. J. Levengood of Dayton, superintendent of the Tennessee Mountain Mission, was speaker February 3. Mr. Levengood told about the founding and progress of the mission, which is working in fifteen counties in the surrounding Eastern Tennessee area.

"Our First Impressions" was the theme of the program recently presented by the freshman class. Familiar college scenes were brought to mind in a skit as the students told how they felt about the school, the people, the Chris-

tian atmosphere, and also the rules that they found on Bryan Hill.

At a chapel service conducted by the Student Council, Ralph Maynard, a junior of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was elected to head the council for the remainder of the year.

"Tammy," a forty-minute film depicting a dramatic chapter of everyday family life, was shown at the sophomore vesper service, January 25.

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating	\$ 2,284.53
Building	6,932.04

Total January gifts \$ 9,216.57

FISCAL YEAR TOTALS

(June 1, 1952 to January 31, 1953)	
Operating	\$28,040.76
Building	25,849.31

Total gifts to Feb. 1 \$53,890.07

Christ Above All

Judson A. Rudd, LLD.	Editor-in-chief
Rebecca M. Peck	Managing Editor
Joeann Enyart	Assistant Editor
Mrs. Earl Williamson	Circulation Manager

Published and Printed Monthly by
William Jennings Bryan University
Dayton, Tennessee

Entered as second-class matter, March 13, 1937, at the post office at Dayton, Tennessee, under the Act of August 24, 1912.